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Fifty-eighth year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 1 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in order to draw your attention to the latest act of Palestinian terrorism perpetrated against the citizens of Israel.

On Wednesday, 30 April, at approximately 1 a.m. (local time), a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance to a pub near the United States embassy in the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv, scattering human remains throughout the area. A second bomber managed to flee the scene when his explosive device did not detonate, and currently remains at large. The terrorist was blocked from entering the popular tourist destination by an on-duty security officer, greatly minimizing the human costs of the attack, while unfortunately inflicting serious injury upon the guard himself. As it was, the force of the bomb, packed with nails and other projectiles to maximize the pain and suffering of the victims, killed three civilians and wounded 60 others, including six with serious to critical injuries. The three murdered in the attack were a French national, Dominique Caroline Hess, a young musician, Ran Baron, affiliated with a popular musical group known as The Israeli Peace Drummers, who use their music to advance peace and cooperation between groups and cultures worldwide, and a second musician, Yanai Weiss. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, Hamas, and the Al Qassam Brigades have all claimed responsibility for the attack.

The seaside promenade in Tel Aviv, where the attack took place has been the target of several terrorist attacks in the past two years, including the Dolphinarium disco bombing which killed 22 Israeli civilians in June 2001, most of them teenagers.

Yesterday's terrorist attack is a striking and tragic demonstration of the nightmare of the globalization of terror. The attack was perpetrated by two British citizens who entered Israel from Gaza through Egypt, in order to attack a pub that is a known popular destination for international tourists, located close to the American

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Embassy. Moreover, the attack killed a French citizen, and wounded other foreign nationals.

Yesterday's bombing also reaffirms that innocent civilians in Israel continue to be deliberately and systematically targeted for murder. The cessation of Palestinian terrorism, including the reprehensible and criminal tactic of suicide bombings, is a fundamental precondition to a process of negotiation, which is the only means of achieving a just and sustainable peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Israel renews, once again, its calls upon the Palestinian leadership to reject, finally and absolutely, the use and promotion of terrorism, including the elimination of incitement in Palestinian religious, educational and political institutions. The Palestinian side must take concerted, real and unrelenting actions to disarm, de-legitimize and bring to justice terrorist groups operating freely in its territory, in accordance with international obligations, Security Council resolutions and its own signed agreements. Anything less is totally unacceptable, endangers the lives of civilians and diminishes any hopes of peace. As long as the daily threat of Palestinian terrorism continues, Israel must continue to adopt the necessary preventive security measures in accordance with its indisputable right and duty to protect its citizens.

Israel calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics and to use its authority to compel all regimes that sponsor and incite terrorism in the region to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001).

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000, which document the criminal terrorist strategy for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 160 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan Gillerman
Ambassador

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 1 May 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In the immediate wake of the presentation yesterday of the Quartet's road map to the Israeli and Palestinian sides, Israel, the occupying Power, has chosen to continue waging its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. In a span of less than 24 hours, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 21 Palestinians, including men, women and children. Tragically, despite renewed efforts towards peace, the occupying Power continues to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

As reflected in the list of Palestinian martyrs annexed to the present letter, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to kill Palestinian civilians on an almost daily basis. The excessive and indiscriminate use of force by the Israeli occupying forces during invasions and assaults on Palestinian civilian areas, in addition to the ongoing illegal Israeli practice of extrajudicial executions, have ensured the mounting of Palestinian casualties with each passing day.

Today alone, at least 15 Palestinians, including three children and a mentally handicapped man, were killed by the occupying forces. The majority of those killed today were killed by the occupying forces during an attack on the densely populated Shijaiyah neighbourhood of Gaza City. In the darkness of night, shortly after midnight, the Israeli occupying forces, including nearly 60 tanks and armoured personnel carriers backed by helicopter gunships, raided the area, laying siege to and targeting the home of a Palestinian man, Yussef Khaled Abu Hein, who was killed in the attack. The tank shells, helicopter missiles and machine-gun fire unleashed by the occupying forces killed a total of 13 Palestinians and wounded more than 65 others, 12 of them reported to be in critical condition. Among those killed were a 2-year-old boy, Amer Ahmed Ayad, who was shot in the head as he peered out of the window of his home, and two teenage boys, Mohammed Abdel Nasser Al-Dahdouh, 13 years old, and Ahmed Ramadan Al-Titr, 15 years old, who were both killed by bullets to the head as they tried to flee from the shooting. In addition, two Palestinian men were killed today by the occupying forces in the village of Yatta near the city of Al-Khalil. These killings were preceded yesterday

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by the several other killings by the occupying forces, including a 60-year-old woman in Gaza, Subeiheh Muslim Abu Atwa, who died from several gunshot wounds, and a 31-year-old Palestinian farmer, Rayeq Masood Ghoori Al-Durghameh, in from the village of Toobas near the city of Nablus.

These brutal killings by the Israeli occupying forces, in addition to Israel's continuing demolition of Palestinian homes, ongoing raids of Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps rising detention of Palestinian civilians and continuing imposition of the severest restrictions on the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, have ensured the continuation of widespread fear and panic and intense frustration and tension among the Palestinian civilian population. This death, destruction and loss being inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people under its occupation will surely, if it continues, undermine and potentially destroy any efforts towards an end to the violence and a genuine resumption of the peace process between the two sides.

The recent confirmation of a new Palestinian cabinet, headed by the first Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, along with the presentation of the Quartet's road map and their stated intention to intensify peace efforts, present a new opportunity for pursuing peace between the two sides that should not be sabotaged. As such, continuing Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian people should be vigorously condemned by the international community and all efforts must be exerted to compel Israel to cease its military campaign against the Palestinian people and to adhere to international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Only under such conditions can the tragic cycle of violence be stemmed and can an environment conducive to peace efforts become a reality.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 163 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 April 2003 (A/ES-10/224-S/2003/416), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 59 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,365 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 1 May 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

Wednesday, 9 April 2003, to Thursday, 1 May 2003

Wednesday, 9 April 2003

1. Ramiz Nafez Al-Talmes
2. Abdel Munem Mohammed Nijim

Thursday, 10 April 2003

1. Radwan Salah Hussein Qiro
2. Basil Akram Suleiman Surdi
3. Mahmoud Saqr Ragheb
4. Jasser Hussein Aleemy

Saturday, 12 April 2003

1. Fadi Nashat Alawneh
2. Ghaseb Mahmoud Al-Hawarein

Sunday, 13 April 2003

1. Fadi Yussef Ibrahim Totah (died from wounds sustained on 8 April 2003)
2. Mohammed Ahmed Madi Jawabrej (11 years old)
3. Nour Ahmed

Tuesday, 15 April 2003

1. Mazen Marwan Fayez Freteh
2. Ahmed Saleh Ahmed Al-Obeidi
3. Mohammed Abdel Mohsen Yunis (18 years old)
4. Abdelhamid Abu Al-Eish

Wednesday, 16 April 2003

1. Hassan Suleiman Yaqoub Munasreh
2. Mohammed Salmah Totah (died from wounds sustained on 8 April 2003)
3. Adnan Abdel Muti Al-Katry (died from wounds sustained earlier)

Thursday, 17 April 2003

1. Yussef Abdel Raziq Yehiya (16 years old)
2. Mahmoud Mohammed Ali Al-Looh (died from wounds sustained on 8 April 2003)

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,365 martyrs.

Saturday, 19 April 2003

Nazih Adel Ahmed Darwzeh

Sunday, 20 April 2003

1. Mahmoud Ahmed Abu Kosh (15 years old)
2. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Hamaideh (14 years old)
3. Hussein Mahmoud Zanoun
4. Sa'di Juma'a Abu Hadied
5. Saed Ibrahim Al-Masri
6. Anas Mahmoud Mohammed Ajawy (17 years old)
7. Abdelrahman Zuhdi Abed (17 years old)

Wednesday, 23 April 2003

Shalabi Khalil Musa Atmizy

Thursday, 24 April 2003

1. Ahmed Khalid Al-Khatib (18 years old)
2. Osama Hamadallah Arar
3. Fakir Aziz Izzat Arar (17 years old)

Saturday, 26 April 2003

Khaled Mohammed Jarbowi (died from wounds sustained on 20 April 2003)

Monday, 28 April 2003

Musa'ab Ibrahim Hassan Jabr (17 years old)

Tuesday, 29 April 2003

1. Nidal Mohammed Odeh Salameh
2. Awni Sarhan
3. Mahmoud Abdel Fatah Salah
4. Anan Tayseer Jawareesh

Wednesday, 30 April 2003

1. Mansour Awad Abu Hadayid
2. Mahmoud Mohammed Amin Hanini
3. Azhar Ghasan Fawaz Hanini (18 years old)
4. Subeiheh Muslim Abu Atwa
5. Rayeq Masoud Ghoori Al-Durghameh
6. Mohammed Faisal Farajeh

Thursday, 1 May 2003

1. Amer Ahmed Ayad (2 years old)
2. Mohammed Abdel Nasser Al-Dahdouh (13 years old)
3. Ahmed Ramadan Al-Titr (15 years old)
4. Abdullah Faraj Ala'a Al-Omrani
5. Mohammed Kamal Abu Rizineh

6. Baker Mohsen Muhessen
7. Nasser Omar Ahmed Hals
8. Shihdeh Mohammed Al-Gharabli
9. Rami Nimr Sa'd
10. Yussef Khaled Abu Hein
11. Mahmoud Khaled Abu Hein
12. Ayman Khaled Abu Hein
13. Mohammed Naieem Basil Naieem
14. Mahmoud Sa'd Bideyir
15. Jibril Shahdeh Al-Makhamreh